

I'm writing in strong opposition to Bill HB 5537 Section 42 (6).

I have worked in New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and CT in various capacities with children and adults with disabilities, including autism, for over 20 years. I have educated, trained and supervised graduate students working toward BCBA certification. And, I have worked closely with many Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) in educational settings. I strongly believe that SLPs, who are not Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA), do not have the competencies to practice Applied Behavior Analysis.

As typically trained, ABA is not currently within the scope of practice of SLPs. These professionals are not required to take any classes in behavior analysis, nor do they have any training or experience requirements related to the provision of behavior analytic services as part of their training to become SLP's. If your bill passes, I strongly believe that consumers of ABA services in the state of CT would be negatively impacted by this modification to an SLP's scope of practice. As you know, Behavior Analysis and the scope of practice of Behavior Analysts has been defined in existing CT legislation, and this expansion of an SLP's scope of practice would negatively impact other professionals including but not limited to Board Certified Behavior Analysts. Any proposed expansion of an SLP's scope of practice must first be reviewed in accordance with Public Act 11-209, An Act Concerning the Department of Health's Oversight Responsibilities Relating to Scope of Practice Determinations for Health Care Professionals.

Thank you,

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School Psychologist & Behavior Analyst